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AMATSUKI

by TAKAYAMA Shinobu

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Amatsuki v15 c88

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15
高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

神曲
15
Shinkyu
Takazawa

AMATSUKI 15

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AMATSUKI 15
by Takayama Shinobu

人物紹介

あらすじ

最先端のCG技術で江戸の町を再現した大江戸幕末巡回展。そこを訪れた過時は、妖・夜行と偶然に襲われ、幕末の江戸に良く似た異世界に迷い込んでしまった。

白紙の者の力欲しさに、帝天に仕える妖と人の双方から助力を求められた過時は、どちらも選ばないことを選んだ。その結果、独力で帝天に挑んだ銀朱は存在を塗り換えられ、今までに関わった人々の記憶までも書き換えられてしまう。

慣った過時は、帝天に対抗すべく奔走し、人（神社・除陽寮）と妖（荒天ら天配）を結び付けるところまで漕ぎ着けた。しかしその矢先、夜行と配下の妖に襲われ、朽葉、真朱、「本当の銀朱の体」が夜行の闇にさらわれてしまう。

過時達は諦めず、仲間を助ける術を探し続けた。そんな折、江戸城天守閣が闇に包まれる。急ぎ江戸城に乗り込むが、敵の妖の策略により、除陽寮達と天座達は別行動となる。そして危地に陥った過時を庇い、空五倍子の位置が割れてしまう。その下から現れたのは、彼岸での知り合い、半の龍だった。あまつきと彼岸の関係に気付き始めた過時。空五倍子や澤手を負って新たな姿に生まれ変わった霊草らと一端別れ、過時は除陽寮達と合流する。

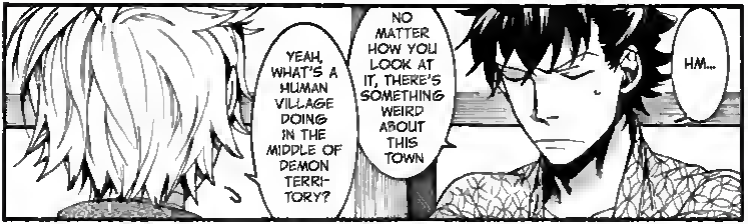
姿を消した霊草の跡を追い、一行は化物遠の中で、とある村に行き着くが――……

CHAPTER 88:
HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 2
WHEN YOU'RE DONE EATING,
YOU CAN JUST PUT THE TRAY OUT IN THE HALL.
WE'LL BE ALONG LATER TO CLEAN UP.

UM... BUT...
COME ON, YOU GUYS, LET'S EAT!
OH YEAH, THIS VILLAGE ROCKS! THANKS FOR THE FOOD!!
AND FOR THE BOOZE ♡
THEY TOOK HIZAME-SAN AND THE OTHERS TO A DIFFERENT ROOM. DO YOU THINK THEY'RE OKAY?
huh
THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT NICE SO FAR
WHY WOULDN'T THEY?
BUT STILL, THEY'RE REALLY GOING ALL OUT FOR US
I BET THEY GAVE THE BETTER ROOM TO THE OTHER TWO!
OKAY, IT'S A LITTLE SMALL IN HERE...
GRRRRRR
This place is great, ain't it?
THE VILLAGE CHIEF SAW HOW PATHETIC AND HUNGRY WE LOOKED, SO HE SET US UP IN THIS SWEET ROOM!

I GUESS FARMING VILLAGES HAVE GOOD FOOD, HUH?
AND LOOK AT ALL THE SIDE DISHES!
YEAH... THEY EVEN GAVE US WHITE RICE

...DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE TO EAT THIS?
BUT EVEN IF IT LOOKS SO GOOD..
The sake is good too!


YEAH, WHAT'S A HUMAN VILLAGE DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF DEMON TERRITORY?
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THIS TOWN
HM...

EEEEEEEEE!!
ドン
ガラッ
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
Maybe this miso soup is really just muddy water...
MAYBE IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION...
Isn't there a fairy tale like that?
ぐぅ

ONE MORE THING.
WE HAVE OTHER GUESTS STAYING HERE TONIGHT.
SO PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE YOUR ROOM.

EH?
WAAAAAH
UH..
WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO START EATING!
EVERY THINGS GREAT!

OH, I'M GLAD
I WAS WORRIED THAT OUR HUMBLE COUNTRY FOOD MIGHT NOT BE TO YOUR TASTES
THE VEGETABLES AND MEAT FROM OUR FIELDS ARE THE VERY FRESHEST! SO PLEASE, GO AHEAD

OH...
UM... THANKS
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

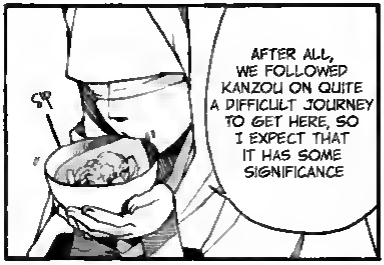
GUESTS ...?
I'VE ALREADY SENT FOR THE EXORCIST EVERYTHING IS READY FOR TONIGHT

THEREFORE, WE REQUEST YOU TO KINDLY NOT INTERFERE
IT'S JUST A CERTAIN CEREMONY THAT MUST BE PERFORMED
laugh
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT
OH,
OH...
YOU HAD SOMETHING PLANNED FOR TODAY, THEN?

A CEREMONY...?
YES, A WEDDING
IN THIS TOWN, WE HOLD A CEREMONY WHERE THE BRIDE IS WELCOMED INTO HER NEW HUSBAND'S FAMILY
BUT OUR TRADITIONS FORBID OUTSIDERS FROM PARTICIPATING
...SO AS I WAS SAYING, YOU GIRLS SHOULD STAY IN YOUR ROOM TONIGHT
YES, OF COURSE THANK YOU
close
!
Sigh
WELL, WE MADE IT
THE LOCALS SEEM HOSPITABLE ENOUGH,
BUT I STILL FEEL ON EDGE
AS DO I.
IT'S LIKELY THAT WE'RE BEING WATCHED
IS THAT A SURPRISE?
gulp
gulp
Blush

IT'S NOT POISONED OR ANYTHING
ACTUALLY, FOR PEASANT FOOD,
IT'S QUITE DELI-CIOUS.
I'VE ALREADY EATEN THE FLESH OF AN AYAKASHI
SO I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

HIZAME-SAMA!! WHY ARE YOU EATING?!
BECAUSE IT TASTES GOOD?
GAAAH
STOP THAT!!


AFTER ALL, WE FOLLOWED KANZOU ON QUITE A DIFFICULT JOURNEY TO GET HERE, SO I EXPECT THAT IT HAS SOME SIGNIFICANCE

WELL,
I DIDN'T SAY THAT
SO YOU THINK THIS REALLY IS JUST A NORMAL HUMAN VIL-LAGE?

WE CAN'T.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR, THERE ARE TWO GUARDS KEEPING WATCH

I WON-DER IF RIKUGOU -SAN AND THE O-THERS ARE ALL RIGHT..
WE SHOULD FIND THEM

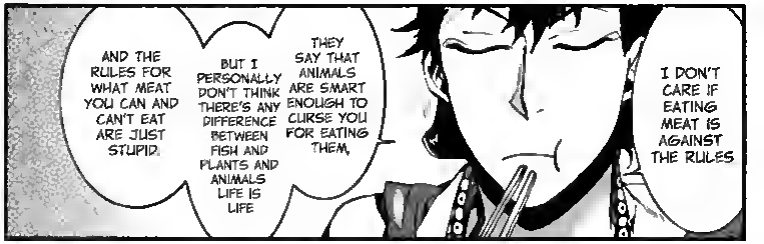
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
AND I OVERHEARD THEM WHISPERING ABOUT AN EXORCISM
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A WEDDING THAT NOBODY'S ALLOWED TO SEE!
SMALL TOWNS TEND TO DEVELOP WEIRD CUSTOMS WHEN THEY'RE REALLY ISOLATED.
ARE WE REALLY BEING WATCHED?
YEAH. THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
THEY'RE PROBABLY THERE TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T LEAVE.
THEY'RE PLANNING TO DO SOMETHING WITH THE INUGAMI TONIGHT.
TONIGHT, WE'LL GET RID OF THE DOG GOD ONCE AND FOR ALL...
BUT THEN THAT GIRL SAID THEY WERE HAVING A WEDDING...
DOESN'T IT ALL SEEM WEIRD?
WE SHOULD MAKE SURE WE DON'T EAT ANYTHING WHILE WE'RE HERE...
HUH?
BUT I ALREADY STARTED EATING
chomp
chomp
chomp

Note: Buddhism officially prohibited eating the meat of most animals, although birds and fish were allowed. Some meat was allowed for celebrations and medicinal purposes. People in rural areas ate whatever protein they could find. though, so animal meat was jokingly called "mountain whale." It would be very unusual to serve red meat to a visitor, which is why they're suspicious.

IT'S NOT DEER OR WILD BOAR...
sniff sniff
HM. WHAT KIND OF MEAT IS THIS?
HUH?
ISN'T MEAT SUPPOSED TO HAVE MEDICINAL PROPERTIES?
I WONDER IF THEY COOKED IT FOR THEIR WEDDING PARTY.

DOG
IT'S DOG MEAT
!
OOH, DOG MEAT?
SO THAT'S WHAT DOG TASTES LIKE.
WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION?!

AS LONG AS IT TASTES GOOD, I DON'T CARE IF IT'S DEER OR PIG OR DOG OR WHATEVER.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YOU MONSTER!!
AND HOW CAN YOU DO IT WITH SUCH A CALM FACE?! WHY AREN'T YOU FREAKING OUT?!
THAT'S MANS BEST FRIEND YOU'RE EATING!! HOW CAN YOU EAT AN ADORABLE LITTLE PUPPY?!
KYAAAAAAAA


I DON'T CARE IF EATING MEAT IS AGAINST THE RULES
THEY SAY THAT ANIMALS ARE SMART ENOUGH TO CURSE YOU FOR EATING THEM.
BUT I PERSONALLY DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FISH AND PLANTS AND ANIMALS LIFE IS LIFE
AND THE RULES FOR WHAT MEAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T EAT ARE JUST STUPID.

IT'S OKAY TO EAT BIRDS, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE SOME REALLY SMART BIRDS.
IT'S OKAY TO EAT RABBITS, BECAUSE THEY JUMP AND THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO FLYING
EAT THIS, DON'T EAT THAT...
HUMANS ARE REALLY SELF-CENTRED IF THEY THINK THEIR DUMB RULES MATTER.

yeah!
BUT I DO WHAT I WANT!
IF SOMETHING TASTES GOOD I'M GONNA EAT IT!
BEING HUNGRY IS THE ONLY JUSTIFICATION I NEED!
WOW... I'M KIND OF IMPRESSED. BUT STILL KIND OF GROSSED OUT.

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE HAVNG AN ETHICAL DEBATE
YOU'RE BOTH IDIOTS.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY SERVED US DOG MEAT, EVEN THOUGH THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING US
THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK THE INUGAMI TONIGHT...
THINK ABOUT THAT RUMOUR RIKUGOU OVER-HEARD...
THIS IS SERIOUS.
I STILL CAN'T EAT IT.
I GUESS IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...

BUT IF WE DON'T EAT IT, WON'T IT SEEM SUSPICIOUS?
THEY SAID THEY'D COME BACK TO COLLECT THE EMPTY DISHES
Quit it!
How can you still be eating that..?
SO WE'RE DAMNED IF WE DO
AND DAMNED IF WE DON'T
rustle
RELAX.
HUH?

WE MIXED SOME MEAT IN WITH THE MEN'S MEAL.
AND THEY ATE IT RIGHT UP.
WHAT ABOUT THE WINDOWS IN THE ROOMS?
WELL?
ARE THEY EATING IT?
YES.
AND THE VEGETABLE DISH WAS DRUGGED.
GOOD.
THEY HAVEN'T TRIED TO ESCAPE THROUGH THEM, AND NOR HAVE THEY THROWN THEIR FOOD AWAY.
THEN WE CAN BEGIN THE CEREMONY.

RUMBLE

DAMN IT... IF WE COULD GET OUT OF THIS STUPID ROOM, I'D GO SNEAK US SOMETHING FROM THE KITCHEN.
rumble

DON'T TALK ABOUT IT YOU'RE MAKING ME HUNGRIER
I'm so hungry...
whine
whine

THEY JUST CHANGED THE GUARDS
I CAN STILL SENSE THEM OUT THERE.
Bonten
rumble
rumble
rumble
ARGH!

SHOCK
ONE MEAL?!

Shut up
WOULD YOU QUIT WHINING?
CAN'T YOU SURVIVE SKIPPING ONE MEAL?

Read the Volume 14 special pamphlet!
HEY...
WHY AREN'T YOU COMPLAINING?
Chill chill
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
?
A MAN WHO CAN ENJOY THREE MEALS A DAY IS LIVING THE GOOD LIFE!!!
HOW CAN THERE BE HAPPINESS IN A WORLD WITHOUT GOOD FOOD?!
YOU HAVE TO GET THREE SQUARE MEALS A DAY!!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT FOOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF HAPPINESS?!
RAWR
!?
!?
!
NOT REALLY
AND EVEN IF I WAS HUNGRY, SO WHAT?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON FOOD ANYWAY

HEY, BONTEN!
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, YOU'VE GOTTA COME EAT WITH US!
KON'S COOKING IS REALLY GOOD!
You're awful serious about this.
WE CAN ALL COOK TOGETHER!
IT'LL BE AWESOME!
.....

COME ON!

HUH?
COME ON, BRO! COME ON, BOSS! COME ON... OTHER DUDE! HOW ARE YOU GUYS NOT DYING OVER TH...
whiiiiine
DAMN IT!! I'M SO FREAK-ING HUN-GRY!!

WE'VE GOT TO THINK OF A WAY TO DISTRACT THEM.
I GUESS THAT MEANS THAT THEY'RE NOT ALL TAKING PART IN THE CEREMONY?
whisper
whisper
SO WE'RE STILL BEING WATCHED, RIGHT...?
whisper
WHAT?
AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND KANZOU! I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT ALL OF THIS IS RELATED SOMEHOW...
THEY'RE GOING TO EXORCISE THE DOG GOD! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SLEEP?!
HEY, I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE SLEEPING TOO?
Did I miss some-thing?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THEY'RE JUST HUMANS!
HEY!
hm
FOR HUMANS, OUR OPPONENTS SURE KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND THEY'RE PROBABLY ARMED TOO...
AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WHILE WE'RE SPLIT UP LIKE THIS
I HAVE A PLAN!
GRIN
DON'T WORRY.
JUST WAIT.

OH MY~
EH?
whisper
AINEZU -SAN..?
creak
HIZAME -SAN!
whisper
GIS?
YOU DID GUYS... YOU ESCAPE?
laugh
WE'RE FINE~!
THANK GOOD-NESS!
ARE YOU TWO OKAY?
EH?
THE GUARDS? BUT WHY...?
NOPE!
THE GUARDS BROUGHT US HERE!
WELL, THEY WEREN'T AYAKASHI. I CAN HANDLE HUMANS ON MY OWN!
I KINDA FORGOT HOW SNEAKY THIS GUY
HE'S SMOOTH!
Well, I told them that if I didn't see the doctor for my nightly acupuncture treatment, I'd vomit blood and die, so they let me out...
THESE VILLAGERS ARE DUMB
UHH...

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
COME ON!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE.
OKAY, THEY'RE NOT WATCHING THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW
I OVER-HEARD THEM TALKING...
THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO EXORCISE THE DOG GOD...
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!

jingle
jingle
jingle
jingle
THANK YOU FOR COMING THIS WAY, PLEASE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST FOLLOW ME.

LOOKS LIKE IT.
WHY ELSE WOULD THOSE FREAKS BE HERE?
ARE THEY HERE TO EXORCISE THE DOG GOD?
HOW-EVER,
IT'S VERY ODD TO SEE EXORCISTS PARADING THROUGH THE STREETS...
NO...
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THEM.
ARE THEY ASSOCI-ATES OF YOURS?
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE...
I WONDER IF THIS SUPPOSED TO BE THE VILLAGE WHERE SHAMON-SAN FOUND KUCHIHA... THE VILLAGE WHERE KUCHIHA WAS POS-SESSED BY THE DOG GOD.
IT MUST BE A COPY OF THE TOWN WHERE KANZOU AND KUCHIHA USED TO LIVE.
THAT, OR WE'RE TIME-TRAVELING.

OI,
WHO'S THAT KID?
HEY...
WHOOSH
AH...
Jingle
Jingle

GRAB
!!
KUCHI-
SHUT UP YOU IDIOT!
THEY'RE GOING TO CATCH US!!
WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL?
KUCHIHA!!

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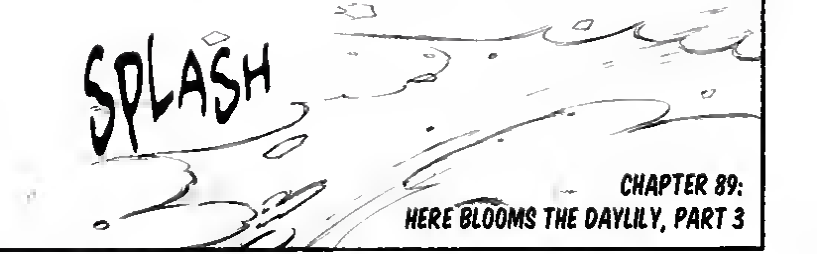
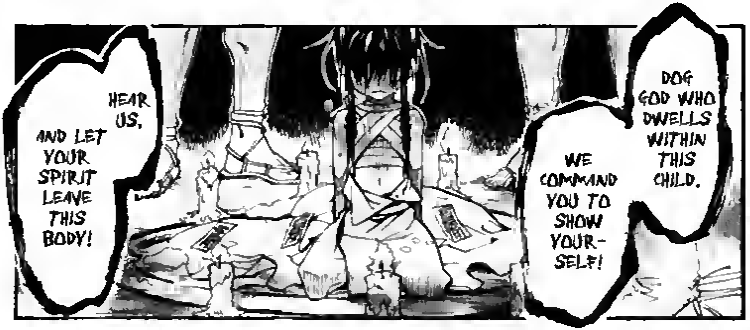


CHAPTER 89: HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 3



T/N: THOSE SPEECH BUBBLES ARE FILLED WITH UNTRANSLATABLE RELIGIOUS TEXTS

CHAPTER 88:
HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 3

IF THEY TRY TO EXORCISE THE INUGAMI WHILE IT'S STILL INSIDE ITS HUMAN HOST, IT WILL SIMPLY MOVE ON TO A NEW HOST.
IT'S PART OF THE PROCESS.
THERE'S NO POINT IF IT'S ONLY GOING TO POSSESS SOME OTHER CHILD.
BUT I THOUGHT THEY WERE TRYING TO EXORCISE IT?
THEY MUST BE TRYING TO DRAW OUT THE INUGAMI...

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STRENGTHENING THE BARRIER AROUND HER
THEY DON'T WANT IT TO ESCAPE
THEY'LL TRY TO TRAP IT WITHIN A SHIKIGAMI
THEY HAVE TO CAPTURE IT WHILE IT'S IN ITS TRUE FORM IN ORDER TO KILL IT.

T/N. A SHIKIGAMI IS AN ENCHANTED SCRAP OF PAPER.

IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, THEY'RE GOING TO CATCH YOU.
THOSE VILLAGERS HAVE HER SURROUNDED
SETTLE DOWN I'M NOT LETTING YOU RUSH IN THERE LIKE AN IDIOT
THEN WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!!
HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION AT LOOK. ALL?
BUT...
BUT IT'S GRANTED A LARGE PORTION OF ITS POWER TO A HUMAN...
I DOUBT IT THE INUGAMI WILL TRY TO PROTECT ITS HOST
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BE ABLE TO EXORCISE THE INUGAMI THAT EASILY?
ARRGGGHHH
AND SHE'S THE 'GOD'
KUCHIHA AND I ARE MEANT TO BE TOGETHER
THE 'GUARDIAN'
I'M THE GUARDIAN

WHERE IS THAT GUY, ANYWAY?
UM...
THE INUGAMI IS IN DANGER,
SO YOU'D THINK HE WOULD COME RUNNING RIGHT AWAY...
UNLESS HE COULDN'T COME HERE FOR SOME REASON...
WHAT IF SOMETHING IS BLOCKING HIM?
IF THE INUGAMI DIES, WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM?
THERE'D NO LONGER BE ANY NEED FOR A GUARDIAN.
I GUESS
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
?
RUSTLE
WHO'S THERE?!

FUCK!
ギーよ
HEY!
THIS IS BAD!!
SHIT!

EVERY-ONE!! CATCH THEM!!
THEY'VE ESCAPED FROM THE HOUSE!!
HEY!! YOU'RE THE OUTSIDERS FROM BE-FORE!!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

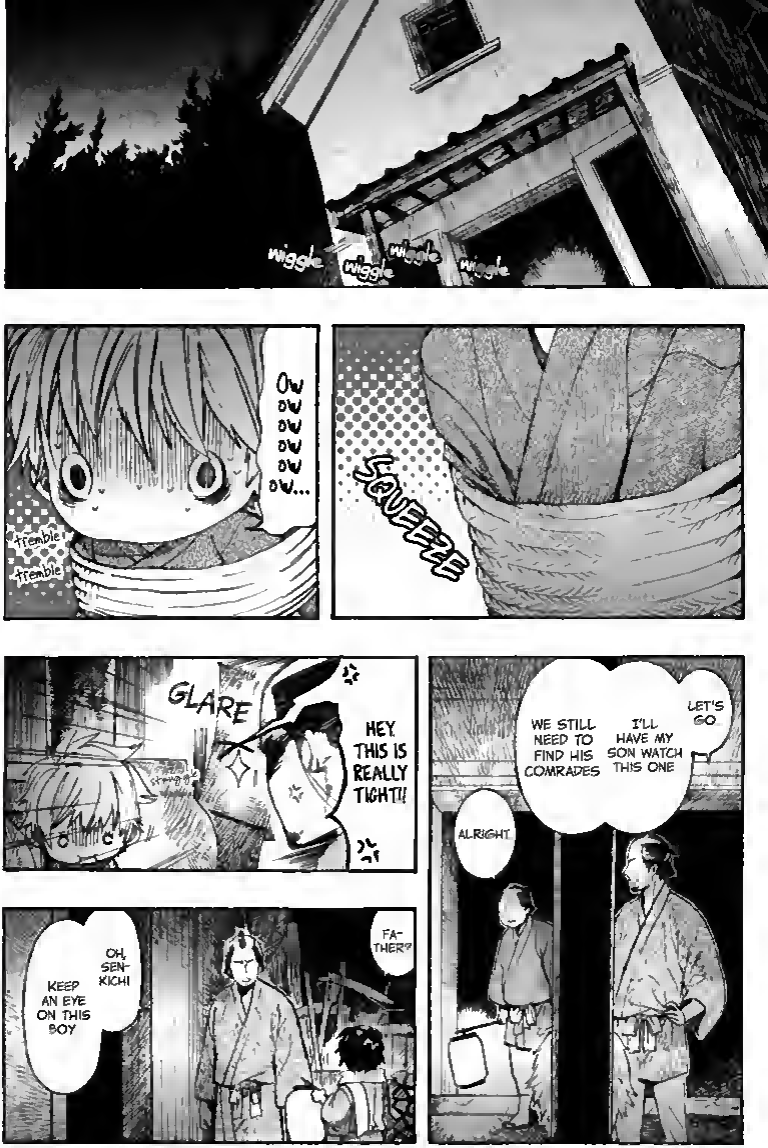
COME ON!!
JUST SCAT-TER!!
RUN!!
WAAAH
WAA AH!
OH CRAP!

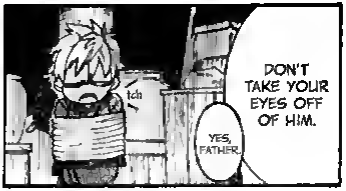
THERE THEY ARE! FOLLOW THEM!!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!!!
GET THEM!!

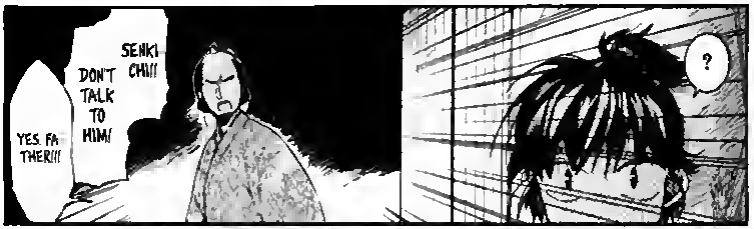
HEY!!
DAMN IT...
SOMEONE STOP HIM!!

DON'T LET HIM INTER-RUPT THE CEREMONY!!

KU...
CHI...
THUNK


wiggle
wiggle
wiggle
wiggle
Owoooooow...
tremble
tremble
SQUEEZE
GLARE
HEY, THIS IS REALLY TIGHT!!
LET'S GO
I'LL HAVE MY SON WATCH THIS ONE
WE STILL NEED TO FIND HIS COMRADES
ALRIGHT
FA-THER?
OH, SEN-KICHI
KEEP AN EYE ON THIS BOY





T/N IT USED TO BE COMMON FOR YOUNG JAPANESE BOYS TO RECIEVE A NEW NAME UPON REACHING ADULTHOOD AT AGE 15. SO THEY'D HAVE ONE OR MORE 'CHILDHOOD NAMES'. THE 'SEN' IN 'SENKICHI' IS WRITTEN ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE THE "KAN" IN "KANZOU". ALTHOUGH THE MEANINGS ARE VERY DIFFERENT

THEN IT KINDA MAKES SENSE FOR HIM TO BE A KID TOO
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IF KUCHIHA IS A KID HERE...
"SENKI-CHI?"
MAYBE IT'S NOT HIM?

AND THAT FACE...
.....
UM, HEY.. ARE YOU KANZOU?
!!
SHOCK
STARE
DAMN IT...
I GUESS HE IS, THOUGH!!
HMPH!
GLARE
HE'S PRETTY WELL-DRESSED FOR A KID FROM A NO-NAME VILLAGE.
AND HE CALLED THAT MAN 'FATHER'...
I WONDER IF HIS DAD IS SOMEBODY IMPORTANT AROUND HERE
I BET HE'S THE ELDEST SON, TOO.
THAT'S WHY HE WAS ENTRUSTED WITH GUARD DUTY

GLANCE
VISITORS FROM OUT SIDE THE VILLAGE ARE PROBABLY RARE...
HE'S TRYING TO HIDE HIS CURIOSITY
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAD A STRICT UPBRINGING...
GLANCE
.....
.....
GLANCE
BUT...
HE'S NOTHING AT ALL LIKE THE KANZOU I KNOW...
YOUR DAD WON'T GET MAD
COME ON, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE TALKING TO ME, RIGHT?
FLINCH
SHOCK
!?
HEY,
CAN I SEE YOUR FOREHEAD?

?
push
tremble
THE BITE MARKS ARE GONE!
THIS IS THE MARK OF THE DOG GOD
MAYBE IT'S JUST AN ACCIDENTAL RESEMBLANCE?
?
...NO
THERE'D NO LONGER BE ANY NEED
FOR A 'GUARDIAN'.

I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT KANZOU WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE IF HE HADN'T BECOME THE DOG GOD'S GUARDIAN...
WHAT IF SOMEAYA-KASHI SAW THROUGH THE WEAK SPOTS IN HIS HEART...
GOOD BOY
AND CREATED THIS PLACE?
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!!

NOBODY WANTS TO LIVE A LIFE OF SUFFERING.

HE MUST HAVE FELT LIKE HE WAS TRAPPED...

I GUESS YOU DIDN'T KNOW, HUH?
...!
shake shake
!?
BUT IF YOU DO KNOW AND YOU DON'T STOP THEM, THEN IT'S LIKE YOU'RE A MURDERER TOO, RIGHT?
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT GIRL, KUCHIHA? THE ONE WHO'S POSSESSED BY THE DOG GOD?
DO YOU THINK I'M LYING? ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW?
OH, SO YOU DO KNOW HER, THEN?
IF SHE WERE JUST A NORMAL GIRL, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T KNOW HER NAME
.....
Hehe
OKAY, FROM NOW ON...
SENKICHI.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE VILLAGERS ARE GOING TO KILL A LITTLE GIRL TONIGHT?
!?
I'M GOING TO TRY HARDER.

THAT'S THE GIRL...
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL
gulp
.....

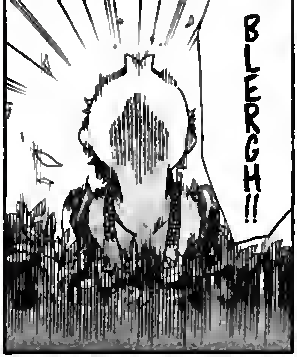
DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY...
...TO JUST LET KUCHIHA DIE?

M-MY FATHER SAID THAT THE CEREMONY WOULD SAVE HER...
!

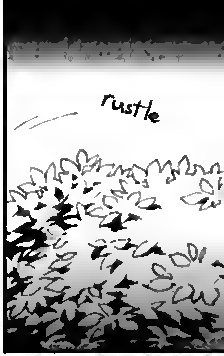
I'VE GOT HIM NOW
YOU KNOW, 'SAVE' CAN MEAN A LOT OF THINGS

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A BULLY...
GASP
WHAT IF WHAT YOUR FATHER REALLY MEANT WAS "WE'LL 'SAVE' THAT GIRL BY KILLING HER AND REMOVING THE DOG GOD, SO HER SOUL WILL BE FREE TO GO TO HEAVEN?"

AND IF HE'S NOT ACTUALLY KANZOU, THEN I'M REALLY BEING A JERK...
SENKICHI
DO YOU THINK IT'S RIGHT FOR A LITTLE GIRL TO DIE FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE?
DOES THAT SEEM OKAY TO YOU?
MAYBE, DEEP DOWN, HE NEVER WANTED THIS RESPONSIBILITY...
BUT STILL, HE MUST FEEL SOMETHING FOR HER, RIGHT?


BLERGH!!

rustle


rustle

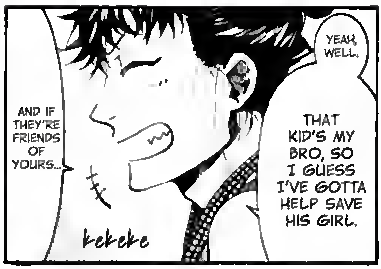
YEAH,
BECAUSE THAT IDIOT ACTED AS A DECOY.
rustle
huff
huff
OKAY,
I THINK WE LOST THEM.

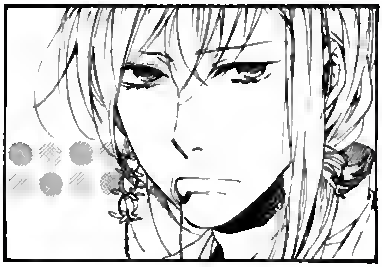
ANYWAY,
ISN'T IT IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDO A POSSES-SION BY THE INUGAMI?
YEAH, RIGHT
I DOUBT HE WAS THINKING THAT FAR AHEAD.

NO...
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW? SHOULD WE GO RESCUE THE IDIOT?
PRO-BABLY.
DAMN IT... THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS GETTING TO BE A PAIN IN THE ASS

I DON'T THINK THEY'D KILL RIKUGOU TONIGHT
THEIR FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE TO COMPLETE THE EXORCISM RITUAL.
AND WE HAVE TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY DO
WHATEVER.
SO WHY ARE WE SUPPOSED TO RISK OUR LIVES FOR THESE PEOPLE?
WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT DOG GIRL AND THE GUARDIAN BRAT?
HMPH.
BECAUSE I ALWAYS REPAY MY DEBTS
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
OH, NOTHING AT ALL~!
HEHE HE~
THAT DAMNED DOG!
glare
GLARE

AL-RIGHT!!
LET'S KICK SOME EXORCIST ASS!!
IT'S NOT THAT EASY, YOU DUMBASS.
HMTH
STRUCT
GRAB


YEAH, WELL.
THAT KID'S MY BRO, SO I GUESS I'VE GOTTA HELP SAVE HIS GIRL.
AND IF THEY'RE FRIENDS OF YOURS...
kekeke



AND IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF ILLUSION, WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK IT.
THE VILLAGERS WILL BE ON GUARD TO MAKE SURE THE CEREMONY GOES AS PLANNED

SO LET'S GO BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY'RE DOING THE CEREMONY.
rustle

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS GO BUST SOME HEADS, AND THE REAL ENEMY WILL SHOW UP.
WHATEVER IT CAN'T BE THAT HARD TO FIND WHATEVER AYAKASHI CREATED THIS PLACE.

HEY...
UWA AAA AA AH!

WHAT'S UP WITH THESE?!
GR RR RR
WH...
WHAT THE FUCK?!
GRR!!
THE 'GUARDIAN' COULDN'T MAKE IT!
SO WE'RE HERE...
TO SAVE THE INUGAMI!!
GRRR...

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AMATSUKI

by TAKAYAMA Shinobu

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Amatsuki v15 c90

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Note: These are the lyrics to a song used in the popular Japanese children's game of blindfold tag.

CHAPTER 90: HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 4

Come, demon, come towards the sound of my clapping hands.

Come, wolf, follow me, and your hunger will be sated.

CHAPTER 90:
HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 4

wheee

GRRRRRR
GRRRR
HOWL
RUSTLE
flap
flap
TOSS

I GUESS I... I MADE IT OUT ALIVE...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
wheeze
SHIT, SHIT, SHIT!
WHAT..
THE FUCK!
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
HEY!!
THAT VOICE... IS THAT YOU, BOSS?
ARE YOU STILL ALIVE, SUSUTAKE?
flap flap

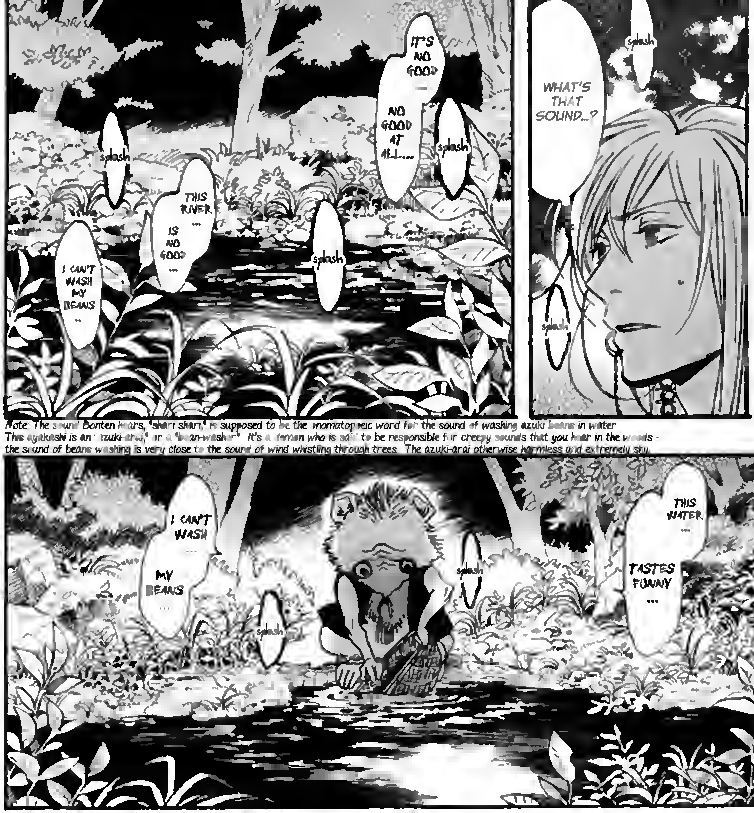
BOSS!! HOW CAN YOU SOUND SO CHILL WHEN I'M DYING HERE?! COME SAVE ME!!
waaah
Flap Flap
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET
GOOD
HOOOOOWL
OF COURSE I DIDN'T.
IDIOT.
GAH!
WAIT!
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T RUN AT ALL..?!
WH AAA AT?!
?!
NO. IF I DID THAT, WOULDN'T I GET CAUGHT BY THOSE WILD DOGS?
HOWL
ONE OF US HAS COMMON SENSE, OKAY?
HOWL
HOWL
YOU...
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!

EEE!
GAH!
IF I STOP RUNNING IM A GONER!
GASP
GASP
OH SHIT I'M SUR-ROUND-ED!!
RANDOM STREAM OF CON-SCIOUS-NESS
EH?
Ahh, So I'm going to die like this, huh? You know, I don't even care if the boss
come save me.
I don't care that I'll ne
a woman again.
I don't care that I'll
at cards again.
I'll never rob a Sto
I'll never crash a party again. It's
or me now... but man, I wanna curse th
kids to death three times over! But I'd
exorcised. (COME ON, GIVE ME A BR
THIS JUST ISN'T FAIR!!

OW
OW
OW
OW
OW
AIIIIIIEEEE!!
GRR
GRRR
crumble
crumble
TURN

flap
SUSU-TAKE!
flap
SHIT, MAN...
HOW AM I STILL ALIVE...?
wheeze
...
HUH?
ARE YOU OKAY?
flap flap
バクン
AND TRY NOT TO BREATHE TOO MUCH.
HERE, CHEW ON THESE PLANTS AND THE DOGS WON'T ATTACK YOU.
EH?!
REALLY?!

Note: Both of these are extremely bitter, fragrant herbs.



Note: The sound Bonten makes, "shari shari" is supposed to be the mimetic word for the sound of washing azuki beans in water. This eyebeast is an "azuki-arai" or a "bean-washer". It's a demon who is said to be responsible for creepy sounds that you hear in the woods - the sound of beans washing is very close to the sound of wind whistling through trees. The azuki-arai otherwise harmless and extremely shy.

JUST CALM DOWN, OKAY? I'M LOST
I NEED TO FIND THE PATH.
WAIT
STILL
PAK PAK
U WAAAAH

LOOK, I'M JUST TRYING TO GET BACK TO THE INUGAMI'S VILLAGE.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT IS?

EEP!
W-WHO ARE YOU?
Y-YOU ...
YOU HAD BETTER TELL ME, OR I'M GOING TO EAT YOU!

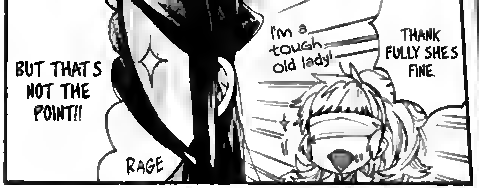
SO YOU'RE NOT A LOCAL?
HUH?
BUT IF YOU WANT TO GO TO WHERE THE HUMANS LIVE, YOU CAN PROBABLY JUST FOLLOW THE RIVER.
UM, I'M KINDA NEW HERE SO I DON'T KNOW .. I CAME FROM ACROSS THE BRIDGE.
THE DOG VILLAGE?

UH, OKAY
!
I'M FROM THE FOREST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE RIVER?

UM...
SO...
UM, WELL, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE RIVER LATELY...
I THOUGHT I'D TRY A NEW PLACE.

WHY DID YOU SAY EARLIER THAT THE RIVER WAS BAD?
UH, HEY
I
THE WATER TASTES SALTY.
SO
BE-CAUSE ...
EH?
OH.
I CAN'T WASH MY BEANS HERE.
IT'S NO GOOD.
I THINK... I'LL JUST GO HOME.
CAN YOU TAKE ME TO THE BRIDGE?!
EH ...?!
?
HEY!! AZUKI -ARA!!
THE RIVER IS SALTY BECAUSE IT'S OCEAN WATER!!
I SEE NOW...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
DAMN YOU!!
STOP!
STOP RIGHT THERE!!
AHHHH!!
ACTUALLY, WE'RE PROFESSIONAL EXORCISTS. ♡
DID YOU THINK WE WERE JUST SIMPLE TRAVELERS?
WELL THEN, YOU SHOULD BE HELPING US!!
THAT'S WHY YOU KNEW NOT TO EAT THE DRUGGED FOOD WE GAVE YOU.
AH.. I SEE..
SURPRISE
NO, WE'RE JUST HERE BY COINCIDENCE.
OH..
DID YOU COME TO EXORCISE THE DOG GOD TOO?
WHAT...?


BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!
I'm a tough old lady!
THANK FULLY SHE'S FINE
RAGE

HOW DARE YOU MIX A SLEEPING DRUG INTO MY HI-SAMA'S FOOD?!
ゴゴゴ
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO HER?!
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO HER?!

WHOSE FAULT IS THIS?!!
I'M NOT LETTING SOME KNOW-NOTHING COUNTRY BUMPKINS TRY TO POISON HER!!!
I'M HER DOCTOR SO I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO SHOULD BE PUTTING THINGS INTO HER BODY!!!
shake
shake
THE PLOT THICKENS~
It wasn't my idea to do this, and the village chief didn't know either!!
I don't know!!

IS THIS VILLAGE SO REMOTE THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE ITS OWN LOCAL PRIESTS?
!!
GRRRRRR
So those bastards threatened my Hi-sama..
HAVE YOU ALWAYS HAD THIS TRADITION OF EXORCISM RITUALS?

BUT EVEN HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE REALLY UP TO! WE'VE ONLY HEARD RUMORS!!
IT WAS THOSE EXORCISTS!
sob
sob
THE VILLAGE CHIEF CALLED THEM HERE,
THE EXORCISTS WERE THE ONES WHO BROUGHT THE SLEEPING DRUG!!

WE... WE HAD NO CHOICE!!
LAST YEAR WE STARTED CLEARING LAND IN THE MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST OF TOWN.
WE JUST WANTED TO HAVE CONTACT WITH OTHER VILLAGES!
.....
PERHAPS...
THIS VILLAGE EXISTED TO PROTECT THE INUGAMI?
IN THE PAST, PERHAPS YOU EVEN WORSHIPPED THE DOG GOD...?
OR IS THIS SOMETHING NEW?
SHOCK

BUT FIRST
WE HAD TO STOP WORSHIPPING THE DOG GOD'S CULT!!
I SEE.
SO THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY YOU MENTIONED WAS REALLY THE UNION BETWEEN VILLAGES

BUT THE INUGAMI IS A GOD,
THE INUGAMI SPIRIT GREW ANGRY...
AND BECAUSE HUMANS WERE INTRUDING ON THE MOUNTAIN.
BUT IF THE GOD WAS MADE TO TAKE THE FORM OF A HUMAN CHILD...
AND KILLING GODS IS FORBIDDEN.
SO IF SHE WERE TO DIE...
THE DOG GOD WOULD BE GONE TOO!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT GIRL WAS POSSESSED! SHE BELONGED TO THE DOG GOD!!
WHEN YOU STOPPED WORSHIPPING THE DOG GOD,
THE GIRL WAS NO LONGER USEFUL. SHE WAS DISPOSABLE.
HOW 'CONVENIENT'.
BECAUSE NOW...
NOW I'M MAD.
turn
I'M GOING TO SAVE THAT GIRL,
KUCHIHA-SAN.
HII-SAMA.

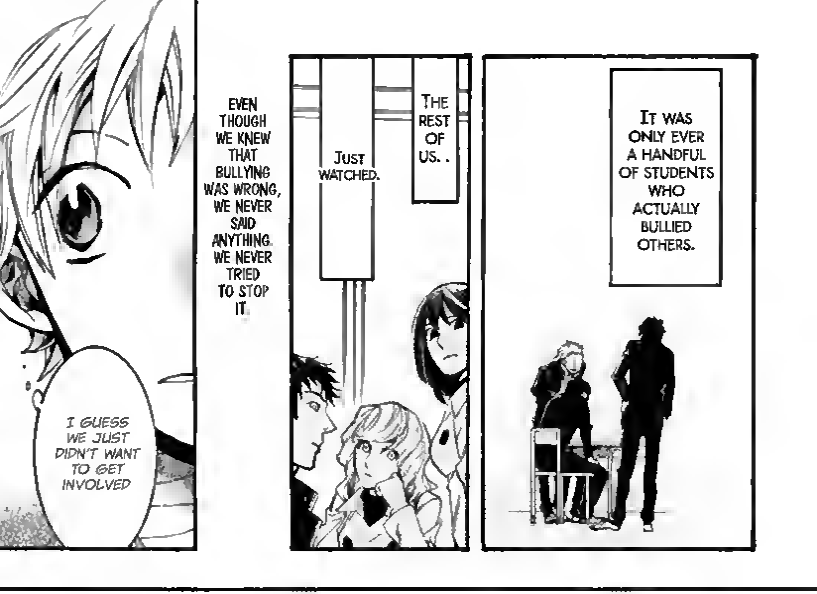
YOU HAVE TO MAINTAIN YOUR PRIDE, EVEN WHEN PEOPLE USE YOU AND IGNORE YOU.
EVEN WHEN PEOPLE RIDICULE YOU.
I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR A LONG TIME
?
I
OH, BUT I'M HARDLY A MEEK LITTLE VICTIM~
ACTUALLY, I'M IN A PERFECT POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR RESOURCES TO FURTHER MY OWN GOALS
SO YOU COULD SAY THAT WE'RE USING EACH OTHER~
HII-SAMA,
THEY'RE JUST USING YOU!!
I CAN'T STAND IT...
I WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO...!!
I KNOW, BECAUSE I'M THE SAME WAY.

YOU'RE PASSION-ATE, AREN'T YOU~?
GIGGLE
GIGGLE

SO
I WANT TO PROTECT YOU

NO-BODY'S HERE...
I GUESS THEY WENT SOME-WHERE ELSE...
stare
WHY ARE YOU LOOK ING AT ME LIKE THAT?!
I SWEAR THEY WERE RIGHT HERE!!
AND WHAT THEY WERE DOING WAS TOTALLY SKETCHY!!
!?
I DO KNOW THAT GIRL...
SHE'S THE ONE WHO NEVER PLAYS...
WITH THE OTHER KIDS.

MY DAD IS ONE OF THE VILLAGE ELDERS.
SO I DON'T GET INVOLVED. I JUST WATCH.
STAYS WITH HER GRANDFATHER ALL THE TIME.
NONE OF THE OTHER KIDS WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH
OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I HEARD
BUT WHY...?
WON'T ANYONE PLAY WITH HER?
I DON'T KNOW.
THE GROWN-UPS SAID NOT TO, I GUESS.
SO WE DON'T GO NEAR HER.
IT REMINDS ME...
OF ALL THE TIMES I SAW SOMEONE BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL.


I GUESS WE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED
EVEN THOUGH WE KNEW THAT BULLYING WAS WRONG, WE NEVER SAID ANYTHING. WE NEVER TRIED TO STOP IT.
JUST WATCHED.
THE REST OF US. .
IT WAS ONLY EVER A HANDFUL OF STUDENTS WHO ACTUALLY BULLIED OTHERS.

TO PRETEND YOU AREN'T THERE.
IT'S SO EASY...
IF YOU KEEP PRETENDING YOU'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE, EVENTUALLY YOU JUST STOP CARING ABOUT THE REAL WORLD.
IF YOU'RE NOT THERE, THEN IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM.

YOU CAN'T ACT LIKE IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM
YOU DON'T TRY TO HELP. YOU DON'T EVEN FEEL SAD ANYMORE.
SOMETIMES GROWN-UPS ARE WRONG, YOU KNOW?
I'M TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE THAT GIRL IS ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS
BUT STILL, YOU KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON AND YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THE KIDS WHO WAS BULLYING HER YOU SEEM LIKE A REALLY GOOD KID
...
'AFTER A WHILE, WE DON'T EVEN THINK OF THEM AS 'PEOPLE' ANYMORE.
WE JUST COVER OUR EYES AND GIVE EVERYONE A LABEL'.
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO SEE HER BEING HURT?

WE DON'T SEE KUCHIHA AS A "DEMON."
I THINK... THAT HE AND I ACTUALLY HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.
OH...
I GET IT NOW
SHE'S JUST A REGULAR GIRL
TO US..

SHOCK
SEN-KICHI
KAN-ZOU.
NO...
?
?
!!
GULP
I GUESS YOU DON'T GET IT YET.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

HOOOOWL
!!
KAN-ZOU GO HIDE!!
GASP
GR
RR
RR
RR
GR
RR
RR
RR
EEK!
HAHA... HEY, DON'T YOU GUYS RECOGNIZE ME?
!!

!
GRRRR
grab
LOOK!
I HAVE BITE MARKS ON MY NECK!
flutter
gasp
THAT'S THE DOG GOD'S MARK!!
I'M ON YOUR SIDE!!
SO TAKE ME TO THE INUGAMI!!

ひいひい

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CHAPTER 91:
HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 5

Ingredients
-100g (about 1/4) of a ripe kabocha squash
-1/2 cup of rice
-500 mL water
-20g azuki beans
-300 mL water for cooking the beans
-Salt to taste

Instructions
1 Peel the kabocha and remove the seeds. then cut into ~1cm thick, bite-sized chunks
2 Rinse the azuki beans. Place them in a pot with water and bring to a boil over medium high heat. Allow them to simmer for at least 30 minutes. Add more water as needed, and cook until soft. (I recommend that you also soak the beans in water for a few hours before using them. They'll cook much faster.)
3 Wash the rice. then put it in a pot with 500 mL fresh water. Cook over high heat while stirring. Add a pinch of salt to the water and simmer over medium heat for about 30 minutes until done. (It should look kind of wet and gloppy, like the consistency of oatmeal. If it starts to look too dry, add more water.)
4 Add the kabocha and the cooked beans. Simmer until the kabocha is soft and add salt to taste

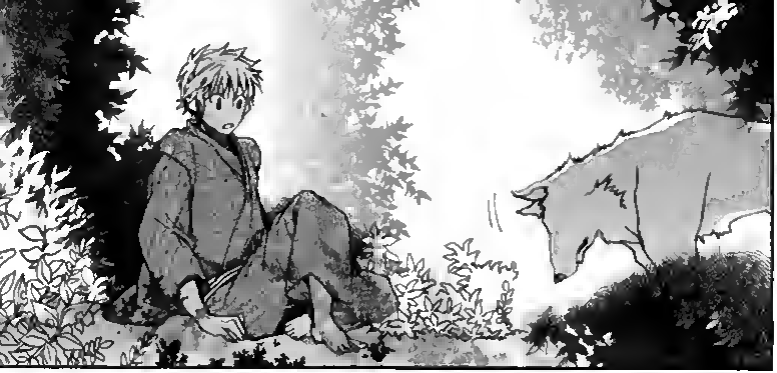
.....
HE'S IN HERE.
THANKS
OH MY, POOR RIKUGOU -DONO
LOCKED UP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS..
WELL, IF HE HADN'T RUSHED AFTER KUCHIHA-SAN LIKE AN IDIOT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN CAUGHT..
HE GOT WHAT HE DE-SERVED!
HIS BODY PROBABLY MOVED ON PURE INSTINCT.
I THINK THAT KIND OF RECK-LESSNESS IS RATHER CUTE~
YEAH, WHATEVER. IT'S FOOLISH TO REACT WITHOUT THINKING.
THAT'S HOW HE GOT HIMSELF INTO THIS SITUATION.
SLAM
WHAT?!

OH~
OH MY~
HE'S GONE!!
HOW DID HE ESCAPE?!
SENKI-CHI?!
SENKICHI WHERE ARE YOU?!
SENKICHI IS GONE TOO!!
WHERE HAS HE TAKEN MY SON?!
CALM DOWN!! SENKICHI WOULDN'T RUN AWAY!!
SHOUT
IT LOOKS LIKE HE MANAGED TO BLACKMAIL THE BOY WHO WAS GUARDING HIM INTO LETTING HIM ESCAPE...
...AT LEAST CALL IT "PERSUASION," HIME-SAMA...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
SHOUT

rstlep
GRRRRRR
gulp
OH CRAP...
Um... are we gonna be okay...?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
OF COURSE!!
ER...
HOWWWL
ARGGH, THAT BRAT IS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
Find them!
OHO~
HO
Find them!
HO
HO
HO~
!!

HO
OOO
OWL
TCH!
GAA
AH!

I'M DEAD MEAT
OH CRAP
WOOF
STEP
GRR
SNIFF
WOOF
WOOF
EH?
WOOF
SNIFF



sigh

WOOF
DASH
SO...
WILL YOU TAKE ME TO THE INUGAMI NOW?
PLEASE?

HE'S THE SON OF ONE OF THE VILLAGE LEADERS, RIGHT?
SO... ABOUT THIS SENKICHI -KUN
Oi!!
YOU DON'T THINK RIKUGOU-SAN KIDNAPPED HIM, DO YOU?

I WONDER...
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HIM TO INTENTIONALLY INVOLVE A CHILD IN THIS MESS.
IT'S NOT IN HIS CHARACTER

HMM...
BUT WHAT IF THE BOY WAS ALREADY INVOLVED SOMEHOW?
HM..
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE HAVEN'T FOUND KANZOU YET!

Oi!!
Hey!!
SENKI-CHI!!
Hey!!
SENKI-CHI!!

THE WHOLE JOB OF THE DOG GOD'S GUARDIAN IS TO PROTECT HER WHEN SHE'S IN DANGER SO WHERE IS HE?
YOU HAVE A POINT.
AINE-ZU..
!

KANZOU IS TRAPPED ...IN HIS OWN PAST
EH?
OR...
PER-HAPS...
I KNOW, RIGHT?
MAYBE HE'S LOST HIS MEMORIES OR BEEN IMPRISONED OR SOME-THING...
KUCHIHA IS BEING MADE TO SUFFER IN THIS WORLD, BUT KANZOU IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND IT'S ODD

KANZOU WAS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR A PLACE WHERE HE AND KUCHIHA COULD LIVE FREELY
BUT KUCHIHA WENT HER OWN WAY, AND KANZOU'S JOURNEY EVENTUALLY BROUGHT HIM TO US
MEANWHILE, KUCHIHA WAS TAKEN IN BY THAT EXORCIST PRIEST,
AND KANZOU WASN'T ABLE TO GET HER BACK.
OF COURSE,
IT TURNED OUT THAT THE PRIEST, SHAMON-DONO, WAS NO DANGER TO HER AT ALL.
AND SO KANZOU DECIDED TO STAY WITH US, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY
AFTER ALL,
THE GUARDIAN'S DUTY IS TO ENSURE HER HAPPINESS.
BUT THEN HE LEFT US TO GO FIND HER...
WILL THEY RETURN TO THIS PLACE, THOUGH?
UNLESS - PERHAPS, DEEP IN HIS HEART,
EXACTLY, WHICH IS WHY THIS WORLD IS SO STRANGE.
SO... ISN'T KANZOU SUPPOSED TO RESCUE KUCHIHA-SAN?
IT'S THEIR CHILDHOOD HOME, RIGHT?

KANZOU NEVER REALLY WANTED TO BECOME KUCHIHA'S GUARDIAN.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
SO, UH, KANZOU...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE'RE GOING?
UM...
I THINK WE'RE ON A DETOUR THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.
THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE IS THAT WAY...
DAMN IT!
WHERE DID THEY TAKE HER?!
HUH?
I'M SENKICHI.
OH, RIGHT.
.....
Hmph.
JUST WATCH YOUR STEP, KANZOU.
HEY,
WHY DID THOSE WOLVES LISTEN TO YOU?
...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST A NICKNAME.

THE "GUARDIAN" IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE DOG GOD'S SERVANT...
BUT AREN'T YOU SCARED OF THE DOG GOD?
AND WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THAT GIRL?
YOU SAID YOU WERE FRIENDS...

HE WAS CHOSEN FOR THAT ROLE.
PROBABLY BEFORE HE WAS EVEN BORN
HE WAS TOLD THAT HIS LIFE BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE.
HE WASN'T ALLOWED TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISIONS.
WHAT A HORRIBLE DESTINY...
[WHY... ME...]

HE'S THE GUARDIAN...
BUT...
PART OF HIM IS AFRAID OF THE INUGAMI
No.
DON'T TURN AWAY FROM HER
IF YOU DO, YOU'LL REGRET IT
IT'S OKAY TO BE SCARED.
BUT...
pat
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT I JUST WANT TO BE STRONGER
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT FRIENDS YET, YOU WILL BE.
YOU KNOW ONE DAY YOU MIGHT EVEN START TO LIKE HER-
hehe
YOU WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HER, HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?
.....?

PFF!
rustle
THIS WAY!
THAT IS A SECRET!
rustle
rustle
GAH!!
GAAA AAH!!
CRUSH
WHAT ARE YOU LYING AROUND FOR?
LET'S GO
I CAN DEFI NITELY SMELL IT NOW
I SMELL... SALT WATER.
rustle
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
UWAAAH!
Damn it, he's such a jerk

THE BRIDGE IS AT THE TOP OF THOSE ROCKS.
RUSTLE
OH YEAH...
I CAN REALLY SMELL THE SALT WATER NOW
BUT WHY WOULD IT SMELL LIKE THAT AT THE SOURCE OF A RIVER?
MAN.
NOW THAT LITTLE PIPSQUEAK IS JUST SHOWING OFF
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO,
BOSS?
JUMP
UP!
JUMP
JUMP
UP!
UP!

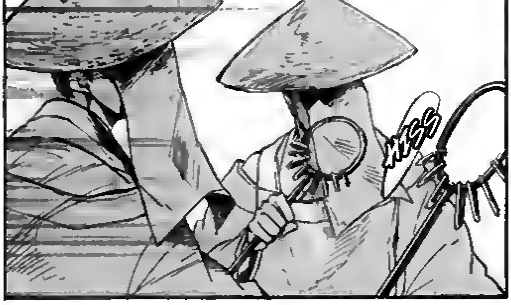
flutter
flap flap
swish
THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
Don't leave
meeeee!!
Boss!!!!!
MY HOME FOREST IS JUST ACROSS THIS LOG.
IT'S THIS WAY!!
COME ON!

SFX: KOOOOA
WHAT THE..

WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT...?
WHAT COULD IT BE?
CAN YOU SEE THAT THING AT THE TOP OF THE WATER-FALL?
EEH?
IT'S A CLAM.
NORMAL LY, THEY LIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.
IT'S SAID THAT THEY SPEW MIST OUT OF THEIR MOUTHS.
THE MIST CREATES ILLUSIONS, AND CAUSES SAILORS TO LOSE THEIR WAY
BUT WHAT IS IT DOING HERE IN THE MOUN-TAINS?
AND INSTEAD OF MIST, IT SEEMS TO BE CREATING WATER.

MAYBE THIS IS OUR REAL OPPONENT.
WHOOSH
CAUSES PEOPLE TO GET LOST
THE MIST IT CREATES.
ITS VICTIMS BECOME TRAPPED... IN THEIR OWN DREAMS.
HOOOWL
!
THE ILLUSION THEY SEE COMES FROM THEIR DEEPEST DESI
WOOF
THERE SHE IS!!
WOOF WOOF

KUCHI-
HA!!
GASP


WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THAT GIRL?!
LET HER GO!!
TCH!
DAMN IT!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!
hide

KAN-ZOU?
.....
I...
I...

No
I...
I KNOW HER FROM SOME-WHERE.
I KNOW THAT FACE..
BUT WHERE?
WHEN?
IT'S HER...

GROW
drip
KAN-
ZOU...?!
GASP

Note: More untranslatable religious mumblings! It's a chant to invoke gods.
HUH?
KAN-ZOU?!

WAH!!
ズン
ゴゴゴゴ
WHAT THE HELL?!

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by TAKAYAMA Shinobu

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CHAPTER 92:
HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 6

WAH!!

...!
HOWWWWL

huff
huff
KANZOU! ARE YOU OKAY?!
.....
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

GRRR
!
!

WOOF!!
CRACK
CRACK

WAH...
GLARE
point
rustle
WHAT THE..?!

OH.
SHIT
THROW
...!

DAMN IT...
LISTEN UP YOU JERKS!!
I'M NOT GIVING UP NO MATTER WHAT!!
SNAP

EH?
HUH? THE CRACK DIDN'T SNAP SHUT ON ME
GRRRR
WHOA!!
THANKS!
THEN...
WHAT WAS THAT SNAPPING SOUND I HEARD...?
Crumble
Crumble

WE MEET AT LAST.
HEY...
I RECOG NIZE ~ THAT WEAPON ~
I CAN TAKE CARE OF SOME STUPID ROCK MON- STERS!

I JUST HAVE TO TIE THEM UP !!
KANZOU!!

YOU'RE.
SOB
KAN-ZOU...!!
YOU'RE KANZOU RIGHT?!
IT'S REALLY YOU!!
TCH!
GLARE
GLARE
GLARE
SPIT
DAMN IT, SUDDENLY YOU'RE NOT CUTE AT ALL ANY-MORE...
GROWL
GASP

TCH!
OH CRAP!!
NOW THERE ARE THREE OF THEM!!
THEY'RE JUST STATUES
SO WE CAN'T REALLY HURT THEM.
I'M GONNA KICK THEIR ASSES!!
HEY!
TRY TO PROTECT THOSE WOLVES
I'LL..
TAKE CARE OF THESE GUYS!

GRRR
GRRRR
WOOH
SURPRISE
!
HEY BIG GUY!! OVER HERE!!
OHSH
Eeeee!

BUT THE SECRET IS THAT YOU HAVE TO...
IS BASICALLY HOW IT S DONE
AND THAT
HI-ZAME-SAN!
HI-ZAME-SAN!
GASP
THE SECRET..
IS TO BELIEVE IN YOUR-SELF!!

GO FOR IT KANZOU!!
BANG
I REALLY DID IT
!!!
NOW IT'S MY TURN!

YOU SHITTY MONKS!!
NOW GIVE KUCHIHA BACK.
SHOCK
HISS
jingle
HISS
OR YOU'LL HIT YOUR FRIEND, TOO
YOU'D BETTER NOT ATTACK ME.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING NOW?

BANG
BANG
Wow, turned back into a jerk
SO IF YOU VALUE YOUR FRIENDS LIFE..
SQUEEZE
WHERE IS KUCHIHA?!
GIVE KUCHIHA BACK!!
HUH?!

!?
HEY!
TCH!!
IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO STARE OFF INTO SPACE YOU SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR KUCHIHA!!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THIS ALL STARTED!!
OH...
YEAH!
BUT...
UM...
ARE YOU..
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY ...?!
GLARE!!
THOSE BASTARDS... THEY DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THEIR FRIEND !!

WHO
SHIVER
ズゴゴゴ
THE HELL
ゴゴゴ
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?!
Waaaaaaaah!
ゴゴゴゴ
Sheesh...

ATTACK ME
Shock
YOU BAS-TARDS ..
..NOW I'M IN A BAD MOOD
SO COME ON
rustle
!
I'LL SHOW YOU!!
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST SCREW AROUND WITH PEOPLE?!
WOOF!
KUCHI-HA?!
KUCHI-HA?!

WOOF!
WOOF!
I
KUCHI-HA!!
THANK GOOD NESS WE FOUND YOU!!
KUCHIHA! ARE YOU OKAY?
Scratch
Scratch
...HUH?
WHAT THE...?!
Flo,

Note: They're supposed to look like bunraku theatre puppets

RATTLE
SHOCK
CLATTER
RATTLE
rattle
HOW THE HELL ...
ARE THESE THINGS EVEN MOVING ...?!
rattle
GRRR
THEY WEREN'T THE REAL ENEMIES?!
HUH?! SO THE PUPPET MASTERS WERE PUPPETS TOO?!
BUT WHY? IS THERE A PUPPET OF KUCHI-HA...?
rattle

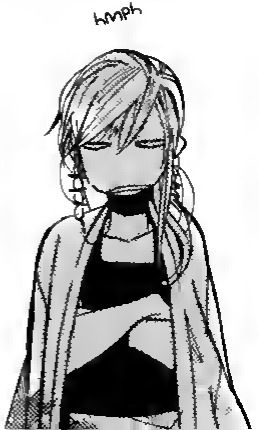
IF I DIDN'T EXIST...
IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN...
WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...
WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...
BETTER...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
IF I DIDN'T...

IN THIS WORLD, YOUR LIFE MAY BE FULL OF PAIN
BUT ONE DAY, THERE WILL BE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU
AND THAT CAN'T HAPPEN...

EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT THE REAL KUCHIHA...
stare

YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT

I GET IT...
I GET IT NOW.
IF YOU NEVER GET TO MEET US.
THEY WERE JUST PUPPETS ALL ALONG
WHICH MEANS THAT
THIS WORLD THAT I THOUGHT I WANTED...
WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A CHEAP, STAGED SCENE
drizzle


hmph

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CHAPTER 93:
HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 7

!
hattie

HUH?

I GUESS
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE JUST FAKES..

ALL OF THIS IS JUST A FAKE, RIGHT?
SOMETHING I COULDN'T SEE.
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS CHASING AFTER SOMETHING...
BACK THEN, I SAW KUCHIHA RUNNING THROUGH THE TORII GATES...
dash
KUCHIHA!
Squeak
dash
THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN AFTER IT.
AND WHATEVER IT WAS, IT AFFECTED HIM SO DEEPLY...
BACK THEN, BONTEN SAW SOMETHING...
AND WHEN I WENT AFTER HER, I SAW THE INUGAMI...
EH?
OH, YEAH...
THE SAME THING HAPPENED WITH BONTEN..

THAT'S...
AND WHEN I HEARD WHAT IT HAD TO SAY...
I COULDN'T REFUSE.
WHAT KIND OF WISH IS THAT?!
I WANT TO GO BACK...
TO BEFORE ANY OF THIS HAPPENED.
BUT... IT ALMOST MAKES A TWISTED KIND OF SENSE.

BOUNCE
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I WASN'T HERE.
BOUNCE
I WISH..
THAT I..
DIDN'T EXIST
I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS HORRIBLE FATE
THAT'S ALL...
ALL KANZOU WANTED
WAS TO GO BACK "HOME" TO A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LOVED HIM.

GAH!
SHOCK
COUGH
YOU LITTLE JERK...
DON'T YOU DARE PITY ME!!
SCREW YOU!!

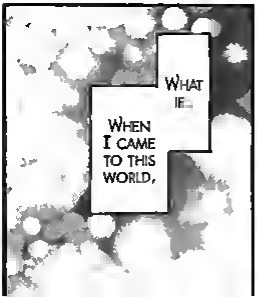
sob
!
sob
sob
sob
sob
sob

SEEING YOUR WEAK SIDE PUTS ME IN A REALLY GOOD MOOD!
IF ANY-THING...
WAHAHA
CAN'T YOU TELL?
HMPH.
LIKE I'D PITY YOU, IDIOT.

IS ACTUALLY KIND OF CUTE~ ♡
giggle
WATCHING YOU CRY...

AND YOU'RE JUST SO TINY...
Gnaha
PAT

GRRRR


WHAT IE...
WHEN I CAME TO THIS WORLD,

I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!!
GA AAA AH!!

WHAT IF I NEVER MET SHINONOME?
I NEVER MET KUCHIHA?

WOULD I HAVE SURVIVED?
HOW...

THIS IS ALL SOME KIND OF ILLUSION!
WHEN THE WORLD IS DARK...
AND REALITY IS COLD...
WE JUST HAVE TO FIND THE CULPRIT, THEN WE CAN GO BACK!
I WOULD HAVE HATED THIS WORLD.
WHERE WOULD I HAVE GONE? WHAT WOULD I HAVE EATEN?
I WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OUTCAST

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE KANZOU'S PERFECT WORLD...
!
THE ENEMY...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY MIGHT BE?
BUT HE STILL TRIED TO SAVE KUCHIHA.

HM... WELL, THIS IS A COPY OF THE VILLAGE I GREW UP IN.
BUT THE EXORCISTS CAME FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE, AND THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE KUCHIHA AWAY TOO

..SO MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOK OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON OUR FRIENDS.

ALL RIGHT LET'S GO!!
WE'RE GOING TO GO RESCUE THE REAL KUCHIHA!!
HE COULD HAVE JUST GIVEN UP!
QUIT BEING SO CHEERFUL! IT'S PISSING ME OFF!
ONNN
BUT HE KNEW HE'D HAVE REGRETTED IT IF HE DID

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S WRONG?
アアアア

TCH

I'M GONNA RIP IT APART WITH MY BARE HANDS!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
I NAILED IT!
ONE SHOT KILL!!
.....

NOW PRY IT OPEN AND SHOOT IT AGAIN! IDIOT
ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?!
SHOCK

WE'VE ATTACKED IT AT LEAST TEN TIMES NOW
EVERY TIME, IT JUST GOES BACK TO NORMAL
hmm
OR IS IT JUST A REFLEXIVE DEFENCE INSTINCT?
IS THE DEMON AWARE OF US?
WHEN WE REALLY SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR THE REST OF THE GROUP...
WHAT A PAIN.
WE CAN STOP IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT THAT MEANS WE'RE STUCK HERE.
HM...
SHOO!
SEN-KICHI?!
OVER THERE!!
I HEARD A GUN-SHOT!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!

THAT'S THE LAST THING WE NEED!!
SHOUT!
SHOUT!
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY.
WHISPER
HI SAMA...
MM
THERE'S A STRONG SMELL OF SEAWATER.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN THE MOUNTAINS...
AND I CAN SMELL GUNPOWDER.
SNIFF
SNIFF
O!!! SENKICHI!!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
YOU DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD SHOOT A CHILD?!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
SHOUT

IT'S COMING FROM THE TOP OF THAT CLIFF
MM
IT MUST BE THE SOURCE OF THE RIVER
OH, IS IT JUST THE TWO OF YOU?
YEAH
WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?

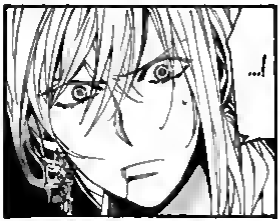
RIKUGOU-DONO RAN OFF WITH A BOY FROM THE VILLAGE. THEY'RE BOTH MISSING.
HUH?
PERHAPS HE'S WITH RIKUGOU -DONO...?
OH MY...
WHAT-EVER.
WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS.
I THINK... THAT THING IS OUR ENEMY.
I SEE...
THAT'S A PRO-BLEM.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUY?
TURN
I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU!

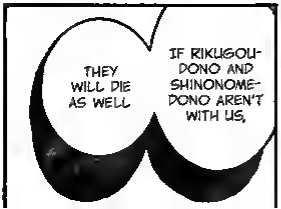
OH DEAR.
SO IT'S THAT KIND OF AYAKASHI.
THEY'RE VERY HARD TO GET RID OF.
YEAH
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO ATTACK IT, BUT...

THIS WORLD WILL COME TO AN END

WHEN THE CLAM DIES IT'S MOUTH WILL CLOSE FOREVER...
AND WHEN IT DOES

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.
THE PROBLEM IS WHAT WE DO AFTER IT'S DEFEATED


...!


IF RIKUGOU-DONO AND SHINONOME-DONO AREN'T WITH US,
THEY WILL DIE AS WELL

...WE NEED TO FIND THOSE TWO, AND THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF THIS FOREST...
I THINK

Oh shit, that's bad!!

IN ITS NATURAL HABITAT, IT'S MERELY AN AYAKASHI THAT CREATES ILLUSIONS...
BUT WHAT IS IT DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?

HUH?
WE'RE NOT GONNA FIGHT THIS THING?
NO.

IF THAT IDIOT HAD KILLED IT, WE'D ALL BE DEAD!

SOMEONE ELSE IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS...
WAIT.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
SHIT...

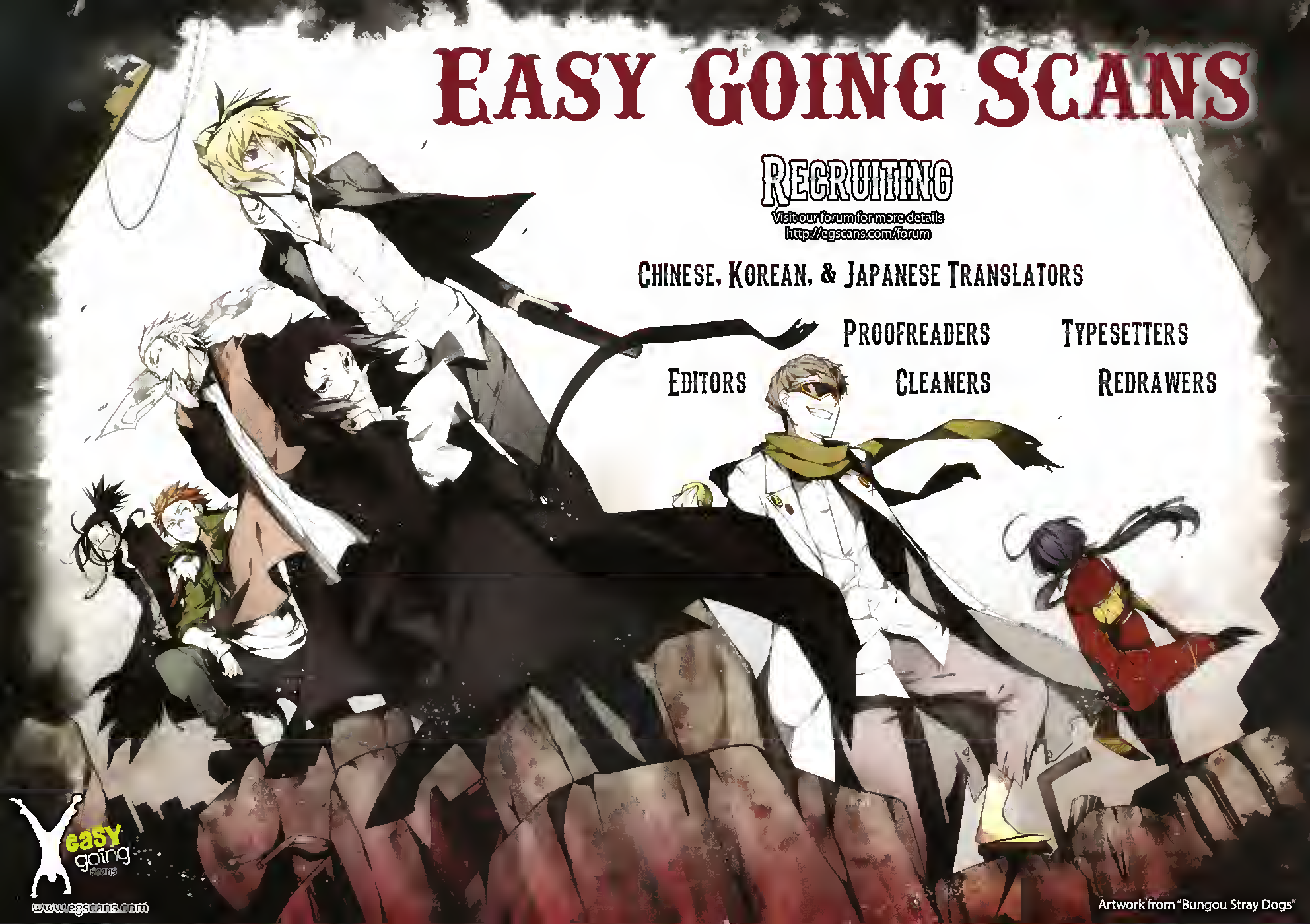
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT
WE STILL DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE HE IS, RIGHT?
DON'T FORGET - WE HAVEN'T FOUND KANZOU YET
...I WOULD GUESS THAT WE'RE CURRENTLY LIVING WITHIN KANZOU'S DREAM
WHICH MEANS THAT...
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO GO BACK.

HE MAY BE A FOOLISH CHILD,
BUT HE HATES TO LOSE.
AND HE'S CERTAINLY NO COWARD.
BUT IN HIS MIND...
THE REAL WORLD IS WORTHLESS
REALITY HAS NO MEANING.
YEAH, AND THAT'S WHY HE CREATED THIS PLACE
REALITY WAS TOO PAINFUL
AND SO, DEEP IN HIS HEART, HE MADE THIS.

!!
AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHOCK
COUGH
I WONDER...
IF WE SHOULD RISK SPLITTING UP
...A-ANYWAY,
INCLUDING RIKUGOU,
WE'RE MISSING THREE PEOPLE.
WHO'S TO SAY...
WHAT'S REALLY "REAL?"
wahh
SENKICHI!!
SENKICHI!!
wahh
YOU'RE RIGHT...
THERE HE IS!!

HEY!
ARE YOU HURT?!
YOU FOOLISH BOY! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
HUG
(?)
Grin
.....
THANK GOOD-NESS!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
I WAS SO WORRIED!!
IT WAS HIM!
KAN-ZOU...
!

Huh?!
HE'S THE KIDNAPPER!
MUTTER
GLARE
MUTTER
GLARE
IT WAS HIM!
IT WAS HIM!
STEALING A CHILD...
EH?!
GLARE
EH?!
GLARE
WHAT A COWARD...
THAT'S UNFORGIVABLE!
CATCH HIM!! WE'LL GIVE HIM WHAT HE DESERVES!!
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
AND NOW WE'RE ONLY MISSING ONE~
...YEAH, WHATEVER
EE EE EH HH HH ?!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CHAPTER 94:
HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART 8

EEEEK!
GET HIM!!
OH CRAP THIS JUST GOT SERIOUS!!
ドドドドド
Waah
WHY MEEE?!
AH!

RIKU-GOU!!
GASP
FEA-THERS?!
!?

EH?
RIKU-GOU...
SHUT UP YOU'RE HEAVY
HEY THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HUMANS AND AYAKASHI BEING FRIENDS!!
DEAL WITH IT!!
ARE THEY DEMONS?!
THEY'RE FLYING?!
flap!
flap!
DROP
SLIP
STARE

YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?
YOU SHOULD RUN HOME NOW
YOUR MOTHER WILL MAKE YOU SOME TEA
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, TOO MAYBE SHE'LL LET YOU HAVE A SNACK

waah
SEN-KICHI!
waah

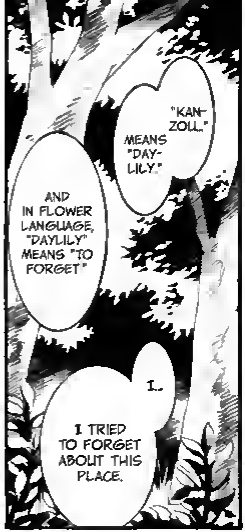
Oh crap
WAAAAH
TIME TO RUN!!
aiiieee

SENKI-CHI..?
IT'S "KAN-ZOU"

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A RICE BALL?
PUSH

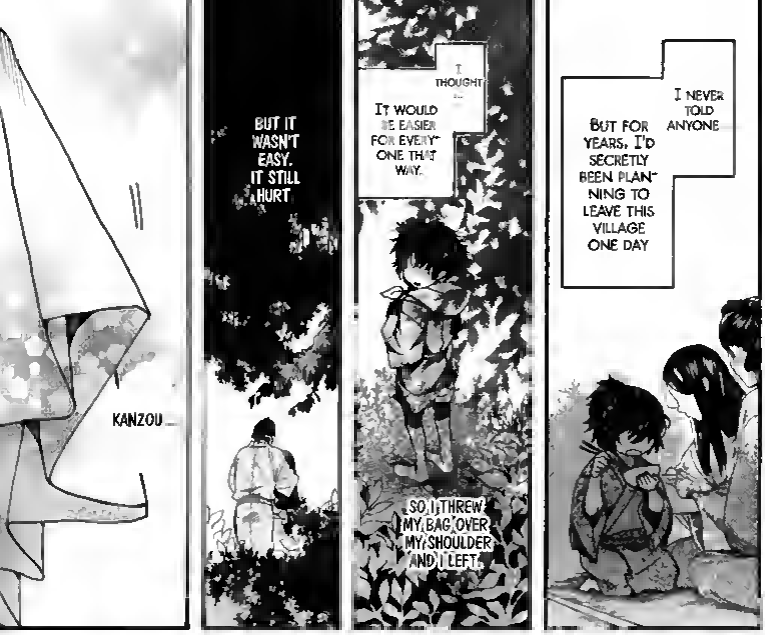
I BECAME "KAN-ZOU."
AND IN THE SHADOW OF THE LEAVES,
I THREW AWAY MY OLD SELF
ON THIS MOUNTAIN,

I THREW AWAY MY PAST
I FORGOT THE FACES OF MY PARENTS
I FORGOT MY HOME.


"KANZOU." MEANS "DAYLILY."
AND IN FLOWER LANGUAGE, "DAYLILY" MEANS "TO FORGET"
I...
I TRIED TO FORGET ABOUT THIS PLACE.

I THOUGHT I REMEMBERED THE TASTE OF THE FOOD...
BUT I WAS REMEMBERING SOMETHING ELSE.

I WAS REMEMBERING... THEM.


I NEVER TOLD ANYONE
BUT FOR YEARS, I'D SECRETLY BEEN PLANNING TO LEAVE THIS VILLAGE ONE DAY
I THOUGHT ...
IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR EVERY ONE THAT WAY.
SO, I THREW MY BAG OVER MY SHOULDER AND I LEFT.
BUT IT WASN'T EASY. IT STILL HURT
KANZOU...

YOU'RE A GOOD BOY
YOU'RE A VERY GOOD BOY
KAN-ZOU!!

WELL?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
WHOA.
THIS BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
IT'S REALLY YOU, RIGHT?
KAN-ZOU,
OUR ENEMY IS AT THE TOP OF THAT CLIFF.
AH...

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO,
THAT'S ALL RIGHT
IT'S YOUR CHOICE

WAH!
SNAP
EH?!
GRAB
WHIP

OLD MAN HATOBA USED TO COOK THEM
HIS CLAM STEW WAS THE BEST
BURN
I KNOW NOW..
THAT THIS WORLD IS JUST AN ILLUSION BASED ON MY MEMORIES AND MY DESIRES
KAN-ZOU?
huh?
!
USE FIRE.
WHEN CLAMS ARE BOILED ALIVE, THEIR MOUTHS STAY OPEN, EVEN AFTER THEY'RE COOKED!!
OH... I GET IT!!

IT'LL BURN, RIGHT?
IF I WANT THIS FOREST TO BURN...
SO..
HEY!
WE'VE GOT TO PUT THIS OUT!
NO...WE HAVE TO RUN!!
AHHH!
THE MOUNTAIN IS BURNING!!
WE HAVE TO GO!!
COME ON! RUN!

GOOD BOY.
YOU'RE STRONG
VERY STRONG
COME NOW
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE.
WE SHOULD GO
YEAH

Whoa

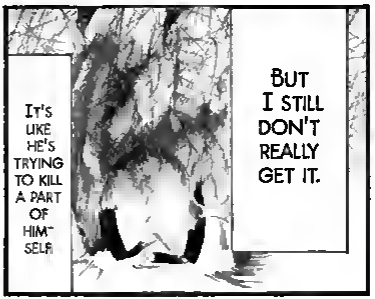
INSTEAD, HE'S BURNING AWAY THE PART OF HIMSELF THAT CREATED IT.
I GUESS

DUDE, THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN'S GONNA GET BARBEQUED...
Damn
I WONDER IF THE RIVER WILL DRY UP
THAT'S ONE HELL OF A FIRE!!

NO...
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO
HE'S NOT TRYING TO SIMPLY BURN THE ILLUSION. IT COULD STILL BE REMADE.

I GUESS HE HAS HIS REA- SONS...
SMOKE
WHOA
IT'S HOT...

THEY'RE ALWAYS SOME- THING YOU CARRY WITH YOU.
BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO DESTROY YOUR FLAWS,


IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYING TO KILL A PART OF HIM- SELF.
BUT I STILL DON'T REALLY GET IT.

WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE...?
IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN A SUPER-COM-PUTER....
THAT'S CONSTANT-LY SPITTING OUT SYSTEM ERRORS.
MM, NOTHING LIKE STEAMED CLAMS.
I'M HUN-GRY
OH HEY!
THE LOG BRIDGE DIDN'T FALL DOWN!

GAH!
That's an awful joke!
FOR A WHILE THERE, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE FRIED CHICKEN.
WELL, I GUESS THIS IS ALL RIGHT
Hmph
OH, GOOD.

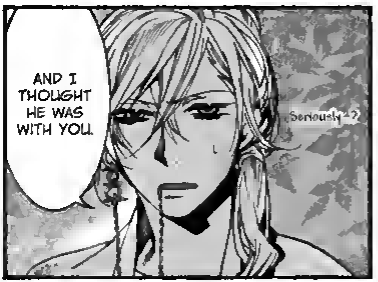
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS OVER HERE
SO I THINK I'LL HEAD HOME.
UNTIL THE FIRE DIES DOWN.
MY VILLAGE IS ACROSS THE BRIDGE.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
BE CAREFUL!

ONCE WE GATHER EVERYONE TOGETHER, WE SHOULD LEAVE TOO.
YEAH
BUT ISN'T THAT OUTSIDE THE CLAN'S ILLUSION?
HIS VILLAGE IS OVER THERE?

HUh?
OH,
THERE THEY ARE
THANKS FOR WAITING.
ARE WE GOING TO GO NOW?
EVERYONE...
HUh?
3
1
2
?
?
6
5
4
7
?
?

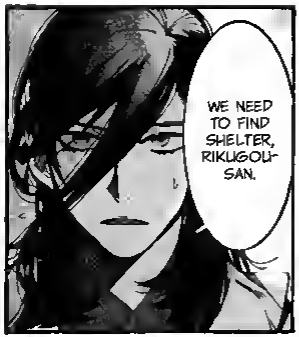
YOU JUST NOTICED?
SHOCK
KON'S NOT HERE?!
SPUTTER


AND I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU.
Seriously-?

AHHHHHHH
NO! I MEAN ...
I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH SOMEBODY ELSE!!

WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK FOR HIM!!
COME ON GUYS!
OMG WHAT IF HE'S LOST?!
IS HE LOST?!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?! UWAAAH!
EHH?!

SO THIS ILLUSION WON'T DISAPPEAR FOR SOME TIME
WE MANAGED TO DEFEAT THE CLAM AYAKASHI WITHOUT CLOSING ITS MOUTH.
OH MY, PLEASE CALM DOWN, RIKU-GOU-DONO


WE NEED TO FIND SHELTER, RIKUGOU-SAN.

SHE'S RIGHT!!
THE ILLUSION SHOULD BE STABLE NOW.
IT MAKES MORE SENSE TO COME BACK AND SEARCH FOR HIM AFTER THE FIRE DIES DOWN

AS LONG AS HE'S NOT HERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN, YOUR FRIEND IS SAFE.
HOWEVER, WE'LL BE IN DANGER IF WE STAY HERE WE SHOULD RETREAT FOR NOW

BUT...
TROUBLE

BUT...
WHAT IF HE'S ON THE MOUNTAIN, AND HE'S TRAPPED BY THE FIRE...?

WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN OVER HERE.
EH?!
BON-TEN.
THAT'S WHY...
YOU'RE A DUMB-ASS
YOU TALK A LOT,
BUT YOU NEVER LISTEN.
shock
flap, flap
I HAVE NO CHOICE
RIKUGOU AND I WILL SEARCH FOR HIM.
THE REST OF YOU CAN FIND SHELTER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LOG BRIDGE AND FIND UTSU-BUSHI!

WHOOSH
DAMN IT, WHERE IS HE HIDING...?
HM. HE PROBABLY TRIED TO GET AWAY FROM THE FIRE.
YEAH.
JEEZ... YOU REALLY NEVER PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU, HUH?
AND I GUESS HE'S THE SAME WAY.
HEY, YOU'VE GOT NO ROOM TO TALK! YOU'RE THE IDIOT WHO RAN OFF ON HIS OWN BEFORE!
SHUT UP.

HE'S REALLY SMART, AND HE KNOWS A LOT OF STUFF.
BUT
KON'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I KNOW HE SEEMS LIKE A GUY WHO DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT AYAKASHI AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
IF HE WERE STILL "SHINONOME,"
I BET HE'D HAVE KNOWN EXACTLY WHAT TO DO IN THIS SITUATION.
AND MAYBE
HE EVEN KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT HOW THIS WORLD CAME TO EXIST.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT HIM

I WONDER IF CLOSING THAT CLAM...
WOULD OPEN UP SOME ALTERNATE REALITY?
I FIGURED THAT SHINONOME DID TOO.
I ENTERED THIS WORLD
COMPLETELY BY CHANCE.

I WONDER IF I COULD FIND THE REAL SHINONOME THERE.
...OR MAYBE.
THE REAL SHINONOME IS ALREADY HERE
..WHAT?
OH! I WAS JUST TALK-ING TO MYSELF
SHOULD WE TRY LOOKING HERE?
..SURE
flap flap flap

BUT I DON'T THINK...
THIS "KON" KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
SO HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM, TOKI?
DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
BACK THEN, WHEN YOU SUDDENLY RAN OFF...
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE CHASING AFTER SOMETHING
WHO WAS IT?
IT WAS ANOTHER ME.
I GUESS YOU'LL CALL IT A DOPPELGÄNGER, OR SOMETHING
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE AN OMEN OF DEATH
THERE YOU ARE.
I GOTTA SAY, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE
I FIGURED THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN...
SO I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO YOU.
F...

END Amatsuki 15

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I'M AN EASY-GOING MAN. JOIN ME NOW!
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FIGHT!
AMATSUKI ★ ATOGATARI
HELLO, IT'S BEEN A WHILE. THIS IS VOLUME 15 OF AMATSUKI!
WELL, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS POSTSCRIPT IS A FIGHT BETWEEN KANZOU AND I.
TCH
DE-CEIV-ING A CHILD!..
WHISPER
WHISPER
Stirring up his guilt by saying nasty stuff
UWAAA AAAAH! HEY! YOU!!!!!
CHILDISH..
WHISPER
CHILDISH..
WHISPER
CHILDISH..
B-BUT THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO AT THAT TIME! HE'D LOST HIS MEMORIES!
YOU WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME IF IT HAD BEEN A DIFFERENT PERSON.

PFFT
A VOLUME THAT SULLIES THE PROTAGONIST'S WONDERFUL REPUTATION, RIGHT?
HM
THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MEN IS MORE THAN GETTING ALONG WITH EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME.
A GOOD COMBO PAIR IS FORMED IN THIS VOLUME
WELL, LEAVING ASIDE THEIR RESPECTIVE OPINIONS,
BUT LOOK,
WHAT ABOUT ME?
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE HAVING FUN.
A RIVAL? A BAD FRIEND?

K-KON!
I-IT LL BE FINE! DON'T MIND IT, KON!
I've been cast aside like this for half a year...
D-DON'T CRY, KON! TRY YOUR BEST, KON! I WON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU IN THE POSTSCRIPT STORY, KON!
I am about to get killed in the main series...
NO LEAKING SPOILERS KON---!
I don't mind even if I don't appear in the next volume...
THE READERS WILL BE WORRIED! DON'T BE LIKE THAT KON---!
THIS POSTSCRIPT IS GETTING AWKWARD.
HE'LL BE LIKE THAT FOR THE TIME BEING.
THE STORY CONTINUES AS VARIOUS CHARACTERS GET INTO DIRE SITUATIONS... PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT VOLUME TOO!

ZERO-SUM COMICS

あまつき

15

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